CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 41 – The Church Enters the New World

1. *Early Explorers Promote Catholicism*
   a. *Explorers and colonists came to the New World for many reasons: gold, the glory of their nations or the envy of other nations, adventure, political or religious freedom, and a sense of mission. This last was not usually last in the thoughts of the kings who sent these bold people, nor was it last in the minds of those who came*
   b. *In 1565 the Spaniards established St. Augustine, Florida, with the purpose of driving out the French Protestants who had settled in Florida to find religious freedom. This was in the days when De Coligny was admiral of the French fleet. The Spanish commander, in reporting the massacre, stated that he had hanged 142, attaching to each one an inscription: "Not as Frenchmen but as heretics."*
2. *The Episcopal Church in America*
   a. *The Episcopal Church was the first Protestant church to be introduced into America. This was the church which the English settlers brought with them to Jamestown in 1607*
3. *The Congregationalist Church in New England*
   a. *The congregation of Scooby in England was forced to seek refuge in Leyden in the Netherlands in 1609. These Englishmen did not feel at home in the Netherlands. They found it very hard to make a living in a strange country*
   b. *So they decided to seek a new home in America. They sailed from Plymouth in England in the Mayflower and landed on the bleak, rocky coast of Cape Cod on November 11, 1620. They named the spot where they landed Plymouth, after the English city from which they had sailed.*
   c. *The great migration of English Puritans to America began in 1628 with the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony at Salem; In the course of ten years thirty-three churches sprang up in Massachusetts. They all adopted the congregational form of government*
   d. *In 1636 the foundation was laid for a Christian college at Cambridge in Massachusetts. It was named Harvard College (now Harvard University) in honor of the Rev. John Harvard, who gave a large sum of money to this institution*
   e. *In 1701 another college was established in Connecticut. First located at Saybrook, it was removed to New Haven in 1716. Two years later it received the name of Yale in honor of Elihu Yale, who gave generously toward its support*
4. *The Dutch Reformed Come*
   a. *The hardy and ambitious Dutchmen were not to be outdone by their English neighbors across the North Sea. In 1623 they established two trading posts in America: the one at the present site of Albany on the upper Hudson River in New York, the other near the present site of Camden on the Delaware River in New Jersey. In 1626 Peter Minuit became the first governor of New Netherlands; The first church was established in 1628 under the leadership of the Reverend Jonas Michaelius*
5. *Roger Williams Founds a Baptist Church*
   a. *In the early months of the year 1631 there landed at the port of Boston with his comely wife a young English minister by the name of Roger Williams But Williams believed in the separation of Church and State. Almost immediately this got him into trouble with the church authorities in Boston; In the fall of the year 1635 the General Court sentenced him to leave the Massachusetts colony within six weeks*
   b. *In 1638 a church was organized at Providence. A Mr. Holliman, who had been a member of the church in Salem, rebaptized Williams. Thereupon Williams rebaptized Holliman and ten others. The first Baptist church in America had come into being*
   c. *When in 1647 the government of Rhode Island was set up, it was founded upon the principles advocated by Roger Williams: separation of Church and State, church membership not a requirement for voting, and complete liberty of religion. These principles have become fundamental American principles of government*
   d. *Roger Williams was not the founder of the Baptist Church in America, most American Baptist churches owe their origin to small groups of men and women who were Baptists before they came to America*
6. *The Catholics in the Colonial Era*
   a. *The Roman Catholic Church came to America with the founding of the colony of Maryland; With Lord Baltimore freedom of religion was not a principle, as it was with Roger Williams, but a matter of policy. In order to make his colony profitable, Lord Baltimore needed settlers to whom he could sell the land*
7. *The Quakers*
   a. *The Quakers were among the most interesting of the religious groups which came to America. They were possessed of a strong missionary spirit. Ten years after George Fox started his work in England some of his followers appeared in America. By the end of the century they could be found in every one of the English colonies.*
8. *The German Reformed in Pennsylvania*
   a. *Between 1727 and 1745 a large number of Germans came to Pennsylvania. For the most part they came without ministers or schoolmasters; consequently several of the earliest German Reformed churches were formed without pastors. The first German Reformed church had been established in 1719 at Germantown, ten miles north of Philadelphia*
9. *The Lutherans*
   a. *Lutheranism in America had its beginnings among the Dutch on the banks of the Hudson and among the Swedes on the banks of the Delaware*
10. *Other German Groups*
   a. *in 1683 thirteen German Mennonite families came to America. They made a settlement ten miles north of Philadelphia and named their colony Germantown. Theirs was the first German settlement in America. A number of Swiss Mennonites settled in what is now Lancaster County*
   b. *Another religious group to come to Pennsylvania were the German Baptists, who arrived in 1719. The other people in the colony gave them the name* Dunkers, *which comes from the German word* tunhen, *meaning "to dip." The most important Dunker in colonial times was Christopher Sower. He was the first German printer in America. He was also the first to edit and print a German newspaper. After his death his son carried on the work. The Sower Bible was of great importance in the religious life of the early German settlers. Published in 1743, it was the first Bible printed in America in a European language.*
11. *Presbyterianism Takes Root*
   a. *In America several of the foremost Puritan leaders, such as John Eliot, the apostle to the Indians, Increase and Cotton Mather, and others, were favorable toward Presbyterianism. In several of the New England churches Presbyterian ideas of church organization were put into operation, and in Connecticut the Presbyterian system was fully adopted. There the names Congregational and Presbyterian came to be used interchangeably*
12. *Methodism Arrives Late in the Period*
   a. *the Methodist Church was not established in America until after the War for Independence*
13. *The Spanish Colonize California*
   a. *Although the Spanish leaders in Mexico sent an expedition of two ships to explore the coast of California in 1542, it was not until 1769 that four groups of settlers were sent out. They met at San Diego Bay. The religious leader was a priest called Father Serra who in the next fifteen years established nine missions. Eventually twenty-one missions stretched from San Diego to San Francisco. The padres, or priests, persuaded the Indians to live at these missions. They taught the Indians about Christianity as well as showing them how to care for crops and raise livestock*